

1 **Regular Meeting**  
2 **Minutes**  
3 **February 22, 2006**  
4

5 *A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New*  
6 *Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm*  
7

8 **Council Present:** *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman*  
9 *Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Raucci ,*  
10 *Councilman Ryan*  
11

12 **Council Absent:** *Council President Puzzo*  
13

14 **Also Present:** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney*  
15 *Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator,*  
16

17 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.  
18

19 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilwoman Heveran led in  
20 the Pledge of Allegiance.  
21

22 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**  
23

24 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin  
25 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.  
26

27 Mayor Cherchi pointed out the fire exit.  
28

29 **APPOINTMENTS**  
30

31 Jane Wilson was appointed to the Shade Tree Commission to fill vacancy with the  
32 resignation of Karen Peters.  
33

34 Mayor Cherchi noted that a member of the Council could be appointed as a member of  
35 the Local Assistance Board. Mayor Cherchi asked the Borough Attorney to review the  
36 Statute.  
37

38 **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**  
39

40 Mr. Martin Monaco 325 Highwood Avenue – Mr. Monaco stated that with walking  
41 around the Borough, the Shade Tree Commission is incapable of keeping up with the  
42 trimming, topping and removal of trees. Mr. Monaco recommended the Shade Tree  
43 Commission not plant anymore trees until they take care of the trees already planted.  
44 Several trees have been planted and they were planted within 12”-18” of the sidewalk.  
45 This is going to perpetuate with the lifting of sidewalks.  
46

47  
48 **STANDING COMMITTEES**  
49 **REPORTS**  
50

51 **Standing Committees**

52 Finance Administration & Personnel – Councilwoman Heveran reported  
53 on the Budget. The Personnel and Finance Committee will be meeting to  
54 discuss the items suggested by the CFO that could be removed or the  
55 impact of leaving in all of the items or some of the items. Evaluations for  
56 each department has an additional paragraph that is called “Professional  
57 Attitude.” It will be used evaluate how a person handles the public and  
58 works with other employees. The budget will be discussed again the first  
59 meeting in March which is a Regular Meeting/Work Session.  
60

61 Laws & Ordinances Mayor Cherchi reported discussion for this  
62 Committee will be held until the Committee is appointed.  
63

64 Police – Councilman Ryan - Starting in March the members of the Police  
65 Commission will meet with Chief Ziegler before the scheduled Council  
66 Meeting, and he will be available be at the Meeting to meet with the entire  
67 Governing Body. This will enable better communications with him. The  
68 Police Commission discussed with the Chief the issues of stop signs and  
69 cross walks particularly on Glenwood Avenue. It was the unanimous view  
70 of the Commission that additional stop signs and painted crosswalks were  
71 the solution over speed humps and speed bumps. Chief Ziegler agreed and  
72 he will meet with his Traffic Officer. The Commission also spoke with the  
73 Chief regarding signage around the Borough. Councilman Ryan spoke  
74 regarding fingerprints of Towing Applicants. The issue was discussed by  
75 the members of the Council.  
76

77 Fire – Councilwoman Heveran reported the department responded to 16  
78 alarms for the month of January. The markers on all the fire hydrants were  
79 made and installed by the members of the Fire Department. The website  
80 for the fire department is, [www.leoniafire.org](http://www.leoniafire.org) . The Fire Department will  
81 be hosting the semi-monthly meeting of the East Bergen Fire Fighters  
82 Mutual Aid Association on Tuesday, March 14 at 8pm. All members of  
83 the Council are invited to attend.  
84

85 Ambulance - Councilman Raucci - nothing to report.  
86

87 Public Works - Councilman Ryan – Acknowledged the outstanding job  
88 done by the DPW with the snow removal. Shared Services regarding the  
89 salt shed has been explored by the Borough Administrator. Teaneck,  
90 Englewood, and Fort Lee are not interested. Palisades Park is interested,  
91 only if it is the Borough of Leonia’s facility. The DPW is in the process of  
92 removing the non-functioning fire alarms around the municipality. They

are also in the process of removing the “stalks” and stumps. The Annex will be undergoing long overdue construction. Councilman Ryan questioned the need for the performance bond for this project. Councilman Ryan deferred his question to the Borough Attorney. The Borough would be free to remove these limitations due to the size of the job. This would be at the discretion of the Governing Body. The Borough Administrator explained the scope of the job. After a discussion the Council agreed to waive the performance bond.

Councilwoman Heveran asked about the tree on the triangle. The Borough Administrator stated that the Shade Tree Commission does not feel the tree is dead and would like to wait until spring to make a final judgment. Councilwoman Mitrani stated she was at the Shade Tree Commission meeting and spoke to the Commission regarding sidewalks, they have agreed to make changes in the ordinance. A resident was in attendance and inquired about the tree. The Commission has an expert from Teaneck who will evaluate the tree and make a report in the spring. Councilwoman Heveran explained the changes she is suggesting to the sidewalk ordinance. It will be reviewed by the Laws and Ordinance Committee and the Borough Attorney.

Real Estate and Insurance – Councilman Hawkins the Committee has not met at this time has met with the Borough Administrator regarding various properties. Councilman Hawkins is waiting for information regarding property for sale in Fort Lee  
There is a problem with the Gulf Station at the top of the hill and would Councilman Hawkins would like to find out if there should be some testing there before anything is built. Councilman Hawkins explained there are several monitoring wells because of this station.

Borough Administrator – The Borough Administrator explained there will be an informational program for seniors regarding Medicare Part –D, on Thursday March 9, in the Annex from 10am to 2pm.

Highwood Hills cat situation trapping is continuing. So far ten cats have been trapped. The food supply has been cut back and this will encourage the cats to come out looking for food. The owner of the strip mall is cooperating.

The Borough Administrator reported she is working on shared services with Palisades Park for the salt shed. There may be a grant left from the DCA. Councilman Hawkins stated he spoke with Bergen County there is an area in the Overpeck Park where they dump snow in the north parking lot. Councilman Hawkins asked the Borough Administrator to contact the County to see if they would be interested in sharing this service as well.

The Cell Tower lease amendment has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Attorney. Another carrier has contacted the Borough Administrator and expressed interest in sharing the cost of construction.

Ready to begin work on the Annex, the work will take ten days to complete.

The Borough Administrator would like to move the meeting of March 20, to the Library. There was no objection from the Governing Body to moving the meeting of March 20 to the Library.

The Borough Administrator reported she will have a proposal from an architect to do the egress for the Annex at the next meeting. The Borough Engineer, Ann Brown will have a written report for the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. She available to attend the Meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Final budget discussion is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> with the introduction on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Borough Administrator reported on the Borough Finances. The Borough Administrator reported that as of February 22 there have been 3 complaint forms and two letters received.

Councilwoman Heveran asked how many phone calls of complaint were received. The Borough Administrator reported that bids for Beechwood Place would be received on March 17 at 10:00am. The Elm Street parking lot is being swept by the street sweeper. She will monitor the situation and look into obtaining receptacles. At the recent Department Heads meeting I asked the Department Heads if they did see a recycling issue to please notify the appropriate individual. Councilman Hawkins inquired if the sweeper was going through the “parking lot” before or is this new? The Borough Administrator responded that it was being done in the past it is now being done more frequently.

Mayor – Mayor Cherchi reported on the rail restoration project meeting he attended. Councilman Hawkins inquired if the Republicans who spoke against the Rail was it the diesel or the electric they spoke against. Mayor Cherchi responded the diesel. Councilwoman Heveran asked for a clarification of the Environmental Impact Study. Mayor Cherchi explained. Councilman Hawkins explained Barbara Marchant who is on the Committee explained that she raised concerns about the parking in the Overpeck Preserve. Councilman Hawkins also asked the Mayor if he would repeat for those in attendance what he spoke about at the meeting. Mayor Cherchi stated he spoke in favor of the rail program and that he was in favor of the “DMU” and that the parking situation would have to be worked out in Leonia. The primary concern is traffic and speeding in the Borough and he sees this as a solution to some of these issues.

Mayor Cherchi reported on the meeting on the drainage problems on Grand Avenue. The primary concern of the residents during construction is the fact that only one lane will be opens. Steel plates will be placed by all driveways so the residents will have access to their driveways. Chief Ziegler was also in attendance at the meeting.

Special Bodies of the Borough – Councilman Hawkins reported that at the recent Recreation Commission meeting summer camp will be held at the

185 Middle School and the Early Learning Center. Lights in Wood Park will  
186 be fixed along the pathway. Sylvan Park is on target for April 1 opening  
187 day. Looking into sod for field house frontage Pool discount period is for  
188 early registration. AYSO is going to have a parent/coach code of ethics.  
189 Councilwoman Heveran asked Councilman Hawkins to let the  
190 Commission know that grant money is available from the Tony Hawk  
191 Foundation for a skate park. Councilman Raucci inquired about the grant  
192 money for the landscaping for snack bar. The Borough Administrator  
193 reported on the notice received. Councilman Ryan asked about the forms  
194 that need to be filled out for the AYSO. Councilman Hawkins explained  
195 that a parent went on field and accosted one of the referees. This is to  
196 remind parents that, that behavior is not acceptable.

## 197 **RESOLUTIONS**

198  
199  
200 The Borough Attorney explained the changes made to Resolution 06-69 and 06-71.  
201 Councilman Hawkins requested to pull 06-67 for a separate vote, he will be recusing  
202 himself.

203 Councilwoman Heveran pulled 06-71 for a separate vote and 06-70 for discussion.  
204 Councilwoman Heveran questioned page 2 on the bill list regarding the fall leaf cleanup.  
205 The Borough Administrator stated it is for the pool; page 4 Christmas light \$990.00,  
206 Councilwoman Heveran thought the lights were kept from year to year. The Borough  
207 Administrator stated that the lights are saved each year but some burn out.  
208 Councilwoman Heveran questioned page 11 insulation gym door. The Borough  
209 Administrator explained this is out of Capital and it is for the Recreation Building.

210  
211 Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve Resolutions 06-64 – 06-66, 06-68-06-69,06-  
212 72 &06-73, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote; Councilpersons  
213 Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci and Ryan voted yes. Council President Puzzo was  
214 absent.

215 A motion was made by Councilwoman Heveran to approve Resolution 06-67 seconded  
216 by Councilman Ryan. Councilwoman Mitrani asked the amount of money involved. The  
217 Borough Administrator explained. Councilwoman Mitrani questioned why we are  
218 discussing one item individually that impacts the entire budget. A discussion was held  
219 regarding the increase in the current budget. Councilwoman Mitrani moved to table the  
220 Resolution until the budget is introduced. There was no second on the motion. Motion  
221 died.

222 Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, Raucci, Ryan stated Councilwoman Mitrani's  
223 point was well taken but he was in favor of the Resolution voted yes.  
224 Hawkins abstained because he is a member of the Fire Department Mitrani voted no it  
225 should be considered in the budget as a whole some very tough decisions are going to  
226 have to be made this should be included at that time. Council President Puzzo was absent.  
227 Resolution approved.

228  
229 Resolution 06-70 Councilwoman Heveran inquired if Mr. Giblin and Mr. Russo had  
230 agreed to the cases. The Borough Administrator reported yes. Councilman Ryan made a

231 motion to approve Resolution 06-70, seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote;  
232 Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan voted yes. Council President  
233 Puzzo was absent. Resolution approved.

234  
235 Resolution 06-71 Councilwoman Heveran stated she asked to pull this Resolution for a  
236 separate vote. Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve Resolution 06-71, seconded  
237 by Councilwoman Mitrani. Councilman Ryan stated that at the request of the Council Mr.  
238 Mitzner lowered his fee to the Borough. Councilwoman Heveran stated she was never in  
239 favor of paying this and that is why she requested a separate vote. Councilwoman Mitrani  
240 asked if the Borough is legally responsible to provide this service? Mr. Giblin stated yes,  
241 that is why he added the Ordinance no. to the resolution. Councilman Raucci inquired  
242 would the Borough still be responsible if the Council rescinded the Ordinance. Mr. Giblin  
243 stated yes there would still be a responsibility for these bills. Roll call vote;  
244 Councilpersons Hawkins, yes with regrets, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan voted yes.  
245 Councilwoman Heveran voted no. Council President Puzzo was absent. Resolution 06-  
246 71 approved.

#### 247 248 Adoption of Ordinance

249  
250 Adoption of Capital Bond Ordinance 01-06 entitled:

251  
252 **BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS**  
253 **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW**  
254 **AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND**  
255 **EQUIPMENT, NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT**  
256 **AND MACHINERY, AND NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL**  
257 **SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF**  
258 **LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO**  
259 **APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$698,532 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF,**  
260 **TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF**  
261 **BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE**  
262 **FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN**  
263 **ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

264  
265 The Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title  
266 Public Hearing – no one spoke

267  
268 A motion was made by Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilman Ryan  
269 to approve on final reading Bond Ordinance 01-06.

270  
271 Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan voted  
272 yes. Council President Puzzo was absent. Ordinance 01-06 adopted.

#### 273 274 CORRESPONDENCE

275  
276 Mr. Monaco's Letter of February 7, 2006

277

278 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

279

280 Mr. Monaco, 352 Highwood Avenue; Mr. Monaco spoke to the Mayor and Council  
281 regarding sidewalk maintenance.

282

283 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, seconded by Councilman  
284 Hawkins. All in favor; none opposed.

285

286

287

288 Respectfully submitted,

289

290

291 Fran Lehmann

292 Borough Clerk